

Blackrod Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackrod Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library/Council Services on Monday 30th April 2018

Present

Councillor. Mrs I Seddon (**Chairman**)

Councillors

Mr G Farrington
Mr S Batchelor
Mr J Price
Mr M Hollick
Mrs S Warburton
Mr A Bury
Mrs S Gaskell
Mr A Bury (Snr)

Also Present: Mrs S Lowis (**Town Clerk**) 19 members of the public and 1 member of the Press

239 Apologies for Absence

All members of the Council were present.

240. Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 26th March 2018 and Combined Youth Council Meeting held 22nd November 2017

It was moved by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26th March 2018 be received and signed as a true and accurate record with the following inclusions/ amendments:-**

Minute No 227 should include Councillors agreed a Resolution to approve/ confirm the ACV (assets of Community Value) compilation and submission. Minute No 232. This minute should read as the lines outside the Library to be marked more clearly.

- 2. Meeting of the combined Town Council/ Youth Council Meeting held on 22nd November 2017 be received and signed as a true record by those present at the meeting.**

241. Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of interest were declared.

242. Planning Applications.

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hollick and agreed by all and

Resolved.

1. That the following planning applications, detail which had been previously circulated and voted on at the planning meeting held on 30th April 2018 together with comments made be duly noted.
2. That prior to Councillor's considering each application at the Planning Committee meeting, members of the public present were given the opportunity to speak to the Town Council on any particular planning application as listed.

03178/18	348 Manchester Road	Demolition of cons And erection single storey Ext to side and rear.
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No member of the public spoke and Councillors voted to offer No comment.

03257/18	133, Vicarage Road	Erection of part 1st floor Part single storey ext to Side and rear.
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No member of the public spoke and councillors voted to offer no comment.

03280/18	9 Eskdale Ave	Erection single storey Ext at rear.
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- 2. That the Town Clerk write a letter of objection to the TRO 303899 in regard to the yellow lines implementation.**

245. Public Participation

A member of the public spoke in connection with his vehicle which had been parked on Scot Lane stating that he did not want to cause a nuisance.

Another member of the public spoke in connection with the same vehicle stating that it was making difficulties for vehicles turning in the small cul de sac off Scot Lane.

Another member of the public spoke in connection with the Ward Councillor report which had been given at the recent Annual Assembly which gave a clear contradiction as to what was actually happening in regard to the parking situation in the village and stated that it was a disgrace.

The same member of the public spoke in connection with recent flooding in the area of Rydal Close and that she had had a receptive meeting with the Director of Wiggitt homes which she wanted the council members to note.

246. Correspondence

Local Resident

Letter of thanks.

The Town Clerk read a letter from a resident which thanked the Town Council for their kind generosity with their recent donation.

Resolved.

- 1. That the letter and content be received and noted.**

Residents Letter Re: Wrongful parking and associated papers

The Town Clerk provided members with communications sent to and received from a local resident in regard to inappropriate parking and asked members to note the contents, particularly in regard to the wording used by the resident. It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Bury and voted to note the comments and be

Resolved

- 1. That the actions taken were on behalf of and had full approval of the Town Council.**

247. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor Bury(Snr) provided members with the monthly report of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This monthly update addressed points including housing for the elderly, policy for trees and hedgerows and end of grant report. It was proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Hollick and voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the monthly update be received**

248. Urban Traffic Control Re A6 and Traffic Lights Update following Site Visit.

Councillor Farrington provided members present with an update in regard to the site visit which took place at the junction of the A6 with Manchester Road on 17th April 2018. Bolton officers had indicated two possibilities for the traffic light situation.

1. **The first being to eliminate the right turn from Blackrod Bypass on to Manchester Road**
2. **Create a separate right turn from Blackrod Bypass on to Manchester Road which would require extensive civil engineering works.**

Bolton council officers had also stated that in order to scale the issue then a junction count would need to be undertaken with the associated costs being met by the town council. Councillors considered the points and were not agreeable to finding the cost for the associated works, when from a road safety point of view these are works which should be costed through Bolton themselves in regard to road safety.

Councillors again felt that adding an additional traffic signal e.g. green flow light controller would be far more beneficial and felt that this is the action that should be considered rather than ban a right hand turn. It was voted in favour and

Resolved.

1. **That the Town Clerk write to Bolton in regard to the decision regarding light controller and cost**
2. **That The Town Clerk write to the Ward Councillors to request the payment for the work to be carried out by Bolton, particularly in light of road safety issues.**

(Update from Town Clerk: Following a discussion which took place in regard to attendees at a site visit and other matters which did not form part of the Agenda, please see item noted under Site Visit Minute.Thankyou.)

**249. Litter picking Communication
Item received from Annual Assembly 17th April 2018)**

Councillor Farrington updated members on a task which had been carried out by a local business in relation to the monthly litter picking activity going on around the village, where staff from the local business had come out and helped to litter pick in the area of the Industrial Estate. Councillor Farrington requested that a note of thanks be sent to the local business for their assistance, which was seconded by Councillor Price who also added that he would let them know when the next monthly Village Litter Pick would be taking place.

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted and a note of thanks be sent.**

250. Whats On in Blackrod Brochure.

The Town Clerk provided members with a copy of the newly collated 'whats On Brochure', which had been put together by the Blackrod Community Group. A discussion took place in regard to whether or not it would be appropriate for it to be added to the Town council website, as it could prove to be a very useful source of information for local residents and visitors to the village. Concerns were raised only where it contained businesses that were for profit, which the Town Council could not endorse. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Mrs Warburton and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk consider ways in which a reference to the brochure could be made on the Town Council website and where copies could be found, once it is ready for distribution.**
- 3. Forward a request to St Katharines and the Blackrod Community Centre for them to add the information to their booklets and possible web pages.**

251. Hill lane Speed Limits.

Councillor Hollick informed members present that in regard to the 20mph speed limit signs which had been placed on Vicarage Road West, the signs were only present in one direction and that these should be placed in both directions. It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Price and voted in favour by all and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted**
- 2. That the Town Clerk contact Bolton Council in this regard.**

252. Coal Mines Update.

Councillor Farrington provided members with an update received from the Coal Authority in regard to uncapped mine shafts within the Industrial Estate. Councillor Farrington reminded members that many businesses were appearing on the industrial estate which did not come before the town council for approval and which Bolton Council should be asking the Coal Authority as a statutory consultee when such applications were submitted. All Council members that this was an area which could result in an accident at any moment. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Farrington and seconded by Councillor Mrs Warburton and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and noted with concern**
- 2. That the Town Clerk send a copy of the Coal Authority findings and a letter requesting action to Bolton Planning: Health and Safety Department: Bolton Chief Executive**

253. Working Relationship and Communication Channels with Ward Councillors.

Further to earlier concerns being raised by Council members about the total lack of respect being shown by Ward Councillors for Blackrod in regard to information being passed down, no liaison on items to be undertaken in the village and now, following a report provided by Ward Councillors for the recent Annual Assembly which detailed items such as them

Protection of greenbelt

Saving of local amenities

Safety measures in the vicinity of schools a priority

Promotion of increased parking

Lobbying for resurfacing works

When in reality there is a distinct reduction in available parking facilities, a small number of business grants made available for Blackrod, putting speed limits in cul de sacs rather than on main roads, not getting a zebra crossing for one of Blackrod's schools, the time had come to address the situation. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour and

Resolved.

- 1. That the Town Council members hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the issues which have been getting raised for quite some time and consider actions to be taken thereafter.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk make arrangements for the meeting of all council members in due course.**

254. Roads and Footpaths & Maintenance Issues

Council members detailed areas of concern, which included previously identified issues as well as new areas including-

**Pot holes outside Popes Farm
Road at the end of The Cheethams
Huge sink type hole on Scot Lane
Manchester Road outside the Owls Nursery.**

Resolved.

- 1. That the information be received and reported, where applicable.**

255. Finance

It was moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Farrington and voted in favour by all and

Resolved

- 1. That the Chairman, Clerk and two members sign an authorisation amounting to £2667.53 (two thousand six hundred and sixty seven pounds 53p) dated 30th April 2018.**
 - a. That the Council authorise the payment of cheques as listed.**
 - b. That the Chairman Clerk and two members authorise a transfer of funds from the Deposit Account to the Mayors Account for £1500.00 (one thousand five hundred pounds)**

256. Site Visits

Town Clerk's Note:

Prior to the site visit to the A6 Junction with Manchester Road at 8.15am on 17th April it was agreed by members present at a meeting on the evening of 16th April that an offer of support given by a local resident may be applicable if the resident wished to attend. However following an item detailed at Agenda Item No 11 on the Agenda for the meeting held on 30th April it has been suggested and agreed that attendees at site visits should be that of elected members only with invited participants taking place only where the situation (site visit) is in response to the participants concerns and agreed in advance by the Town Clerk/ Elected Council Members.

257. Other Matters/ Future Agenda Items for consideration

Councillor Hollick informed members that the footpath/ footbridge had now reopened with Kitty's Crossing opening imminent.

Councillor Price reported that there had been another fantastic turnout for the 2nd Litter Picking session with over 60 bags being collected.

A request for a litter bin for opposite the Industrial Estate to be made.

Agenda Items for April 30th meeting.

None given at the meeting

258. **Reports from Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Pickup Written Report

A grant had been awarded to Blackrod Sports & Community Centre to provide kitchen equipment

A grant had ben awarded to Blackrod Community Group for provision of poppies for the village to commemorate 100 year anniversary

A replacement arm is to be provided for the 30mph sign at the south end of the village which has been obstructed by foliage.

And a mention of some resurfacing works within Horwich.

Ward Councillor Mrs Cunliffe. Written Report

Business grants schemes have been decided and remaining funding will be carried over to next financial year

And following a request will identify what Bolton Highways Allocation has been actioned in this area.

The next meeting of the Town Council was confirmed as the 4th June at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....Chairman